



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

DÜSSELDORF • GERMANY

Newsletter for English Teachers December 2005

This Newsletter for English Teachers is a monthly publication by the Information Resource Centers in Germany. It focuses on American Studies topics of relevance to our academic audiences.

In this issue:

Educational Opportunities in the United States * Web Chat on Educational Exchanges, Dec. 14 * *
American Teenager Slang * Christmas Season * Montgomery Bus Boycott * Article & Web Site
Suggestions

Educational Opportunities in the United States

A World-Class Education While Getting to Know the United States

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0905/iipe/education.htm>

Source: See You in the U.S.A., an Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, September 2005

"More than 620,000 foreign students enrolled in America's schools of higher education last year, and another 322,000 came as part of various academic exchange programs. These international students attend U.S. colleges and institutions for the same reasons that Americans do: academic excellence, unparalleled choices in types of institutions and programs, and great flexibility in designing courses of study. In addition to world-class instruction in both traditional and cutting-edge fields of study, the higher education programs in the United States are valued for their commitment to fostering the ability to think independently—through logical examination, rational analysis, and lively discussion.

Like our culture, our academic environment is widely diverse. You can attend a small college where you will come to know practically everyone on campus, or a large university in which the student population of a single dormitory alone equals that of a small village. There are urban and rural colleges, and colleges around which small towns have evolved. There are state schools, subsidized by taxpayers, which have more open admissions policies, and private schools that are more selective and, generally, more expensive. There are schools steeped in tradition and those that pride themselves on modernity, two-year and four-year colleges, liberal arts and scientific research schools, single-gender and coeducational institutions. Whatever academic experience you are looking for, with its 3,700 colleges and universities from which to choose, the United States has it.

America holds education in high esteem, which is one of the reasons we have many of the



best colleges and universities in the world. We, indeed, welcome talented students from around the globe as a means of enriching mutual understanding and fostering universal advancement. We encourage you to apply.

The various degree- and non-degree programs offered at U.S. colleges, the types of schools available, an explanation of American educational philosophy, and much more information is available at <http://educationusa.state.gov>.

While at a U.S. college or university, you will have the opportunity not only to learn more about your chosen area of study but also, through travel and daily contact with Americans, come to really know more about life in the United States—much more than you can ever learn as a tourist on a short-term visit."

(Excerpt from <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0905/ijpe/education.htm>)

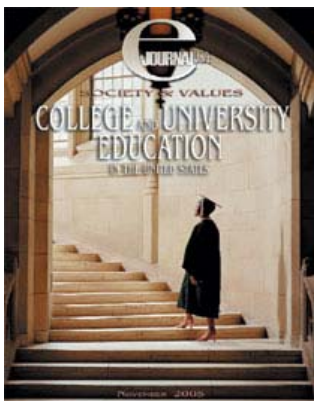
More information at:

- **Studium & Austausch – Informationsmöglichkeiten** (US Botschaft Berlin)
<http://www.us-botschaft.de/germany-ger/austausch/index.html>
- **Education USA** (U.S. Department of State)
<http://educationusa.state.gov/>
- **Open Doors** (Institute of International Education)
<http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/>
- **Doors to Diplomacy** (U.S. Department of State)
<http://globalschoolhouse.org/GSH/doors/>



The U. S. Department of State sponsors the "Doors to Diplomacy" educational challenge - to encourage middle school and high school students around the world to produce web projects that teach others about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy.

Related new electronic journal:



College and University Education in the United States
(An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State,
November 2005)

From the many types of institutions to the virtually unlimited array of programs and majors, the universities and colleges in the United States reflect the diversity, tolerance, and pursuit of excellence that characterize the best of the country as a whole. Through this journal, prospective international students and their parents and advisors will learn about the American system of higher education and academic and student life at U.S. colleges and universities.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/1105/ijse/ijse1105.htm>

Web Chat about High School Exchanges, Studying in the U.S., Internships, Summer Jobs etc. (in German), December 14, 2005 at 11:00 am

„What things to watch out for when planning a stay in the United States? Where do I find information about universities and how do I apply? Can I do my alternative civilian service in the U.S.? Do I need a visa and how do I apply?“ Questions everybody has when preparing for to study, work or intern in the U.S.

The webchat will be moderated by staff of the U.S. Consulate Frankfurt's Public Affairs section, who are, among other duties, responsible for various information services about studying in the U.S. In addition, staff of the Consulate's visa section will give advice on visa regulations. This webchat is aimed particularly at school and university students.

Please register at: <http://germany.usembassy.de/chat/>

■ That's Phat!

"How much skril you pay for those kicks?" - if somebody asked you that question, would you know what they meant? Well, an American high school kid would know. In high school slang "skril" means money and "kicks" are shoes. Look below at some other American high school slang words.

crew or set -
a group of
friends

I wish mom
would let me
hang out with the
crew tonight...

Photo by the U.S. Census Bureau,
Public Information Office (PIO)

bummer -
an unpleasant
situation

This pop quiz is a
real bummer!



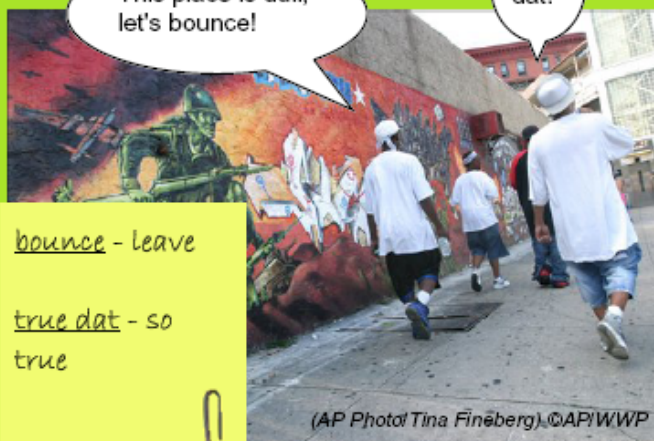
Guys,
I'm
hungry,
let's go
get some
grub!

Photo by the U.S. Census Bureau,
Public Information Office (PIO)



This place is dull,
let's bounce!

True
dat!



bounce - leave

true dat - so
true

(AP Photo/ Tina Fineberg). ©AP/WWP

Photo by the U.S.
Census Bureau,
Public Information
Office (PIO)

guy - a man; but:
guys - may refer to a
group of people, even all
females

grub - food



American teenagers' slang online

Track That Word!

[www.pbs.org/speak/words/
trackthatword/](http://www.pbs.org/speak/words/trackthatword/)

Slang Dictionary

[www.thesource4ym.com/
teenlingo/index.asp](http://www.thesource4ym.com/teenlingo/index.asp)

Wassup with Teen Talk?

[www.naa.org/artpage.cfm?
AID=5197&SID=1129](http://www.naa.org/artpage.cfm?AID=5197&SID=1129)

Christmas Season



Christmas decorations at the White House 2005.

- **About the USA > Holidays > Christmas**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/holidays-xmas.htm>
- **U.S. Census Bureau Facts for Features - Holiday Season**
http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/005870.html
- **An American Christmas - Decade by Decade**
<http://hoover.archives.gov/exhibits/AmChristmas/>
- **History Channel: History of Christmas**
<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/holidays/christmas/index.html>
- **Christmas songs** http://soundamerica.com/sounds/themes/Christmas_Songs/
- **Christmas Carols, Songs, and Lyrics** <http://www.amclassical.com/christmas.shtml>
- **Holiday Food** <http://hoover.archives.gov/exhibits/legends/food/index.html>
- **Christmas Cookies Recipes**
<http://www.8gv.com/cookie-recipes/christmas-cookies.html>

Other Ethnic and Religious Observances December 2005

- **Hannukkah and Kwanzaa**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/holidays-ethnic.htm>
- **Hannukkah (History Channel.Com)**
<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/holidays/hanukkah/>
- **Kwanzaa**
<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/holidays/kwanzaa/hist.html>

Sending Gifts to the United States - Customs FAQs

Please check the U.S. embassy's website should you plan to send gifts to the U.S.!

<http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/faqs/customs.html>

<http://www.us-botschaft.de/germany-ger/faqs/zoll.html>

Q: How do I send parcels/gifts to the U.S. from abroad?

A: Be sure to fill out the international customs declaration with a full, accurate description of the goods inside and attach it to the parcel's exterior. Bona fide, unsolicited gifts will clear Customs duty-free as long as their fair retail value does not exceed \$100 and the recipient does not receive more than \$100 worth of gifts in the same day. There is no duty waiver for shipments containing alcohol-based perfume or tobacco products unless the entire shipment is worth less than \$5 retail. Detailed information on sending packages to the U.S. from abroad is available from the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection document on [International Mail Imports](#). Please also refer to the special section on "Shipments eligible for duty waivers - gifts".

Sending Parcels containing Food Gifts Through International Mail

If you plan to send an article of food by international mail, the FDA must receive prior notice before food is imported or offered for import into the United States. The prior notice must be submitted before the food has been sent to the United States and the

parcel must be accompanied by confirmation of FDA receipt of prior notice.

More Information: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~pn/pngift.html>

You can submit a prior notice electronically at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~pn/pnview.html>

Among the food articles exempt from prior notice are:

- * Homemade goods shipped as gifts
- * Food contained in household goods
- * Food (as a gift) shipped/mailed from an individual to an individual

Q: What about alcoholic beverages?

A: The shipment of alcoholic beverages by mail is prohibited by United States postal laws.

Q: What about taking/sending food to the U.S.?

A: U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations prohibit tourists from bringing fresh, dried, and canned meats and meat products from most foreign countries. If any meat is used in preparing a product, it is prohibited. Bakery items and all cured cheeses are admissible. Imported foods are also subject to requirements of the Food and Drug Administration and may be seized upon inspection if, in the opinion of the FDA, they pose any health risk of any kind. Please check the Department of Agriculture's list of approved products!

If you are not sure, if you can bring/send a certain product, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture will be able to assist you.

50th Anniversary of Montgomery Bus Boycott - December 1st, 2005

On December 1, 1955, African-American seamstress Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery, Alabama, bus and subsequently was fined and jailed. In the words of President George W. Bush, this "show of defiance was an act of personal courage that moved millions" and an example that "helped touch off the civil rights movement and transformed America for the better."



- **Today in History** (Library of Congress) <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/dec01.html>
- **Alabama Archives** <http://www.alabamamoments.state.al.us/sec55det.html>
- **Alabama Archives Teacher Resources: Riding the Bus - Taking a Stand** <http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/rights/rights1.html>
- **Scholastic Teacher Resources - Rosa Parks** <http://teacher.scholastic.com/rosa/>
- **Civil Rights in the U.S.** (U.S. Dept. of State/IIP) http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/civil_rights.html
- **About the USA > Society > African Americans** <http://usa.usembassy.de/society-blacks.htm>

Article Suggestions

Town Sells Name For Free TV

CBS News, Nov 17, 2005

DISH, Texas - formerly Clark, Texas - permanently changed its name earlier this week in exchange for 10 years of free DISH Network satellite television for the town's 125 residents. According to an Associated Press story, Mayor Bill Merritt believes the deal will help attract business and more residents.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/11/17/national/main1054587.shtml>

The Battle Over Gay Teens

By John Cloud, Time, October 10, 2005, v166, #15, pp42-51

The author profiles the new generation of gay teens in the U.S. and how gay youth are challenging both the right and the left. Children who become aware of their homosexual attractions no longer need endure the baleful combination of loneliness and longing that characterized the childhoods of so many gay adults. Gay kids can now watch fictional and real teens who are 'out' on shows... Over a dozen novels about gay adolescents have been released in the past two years. Gay kids can subscribe to the 10-month-old glossy YGA Magazine (YGA stands for "young gay America") and meet thousands of other gays via younggayamerica.com or outproud.org.

<http://www.time.com/time/archive/preview/0,10987,1112856,00.html>

Public Diplomacy: Lessons from King and Mandela

By Charles Jr Wolf & Brian Rosen, Policy Review, October & November 2005, pp63-80

"America has an image problem...[which] is especially acute in the Middle East and among predominantly Muslim populations. Recent polls highlight the depth and breadth of the animus.", constitute the authors Wolf and Rosen. Comparing the speeches and works of Martin Luther King jr. and Nelson Mandela, the authors contrast two approaches to public diplomacy in the Middle East. In persuading foreign publics that America's values are humanly universal, American public diplomacy could embrace a broad constituency (King) or try to focus on and mobilize the core audience by hostile depiction of the enemy (Mandela). The authors analyze both strategies and extrapolate tactics for a comprehensive U.S. public diplomacy effort. <http://www.policyreview.org/oct05/wolf.html>

Michael Moore: Cinematic Historian or Propagandist? A Historians Film Committee Panel Presented at the 2005 American Historical Association Meeting

By John E. O'Connor et al., Film & History Vol. 35/2, p.7 (10pgs)

At the American Historical Association meeting in Seattle in Jan 2005, the Historians Film Committee was pleased to present a panel on a film which has recently produced its share of controversy. Four historians presented and discussed their views of the Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11 and the issues which it raises for historians and scholars. The comments of these four historians are presented.

A Writer Who Circles Academe

By David Cohen, Chronicle of Higher Education, October 21, 2005, v52, #9, pA64-A64

The article presents a profile of author Paul Auster, based on an interview as well as review of his novels and the articles and books that have been published about him. His prolific literary activity has resulted in steadily growing sales and generally appreciative reviews at home, give or take the occasional critical mauling. Overseas, particularly in

France and Israel, the Francophile, Jewish-American author enjoys something approaching rock-star status. A body of international scholarship on his work grows apace.

It's a Legal Matter, Baby: Fair Use Law and the Rock 'n' Roll Scholar

By Steven Hamelman, Popular Music & Society, Dec 2005, v28, #5, pp577-594

The authors covers the use quotes from lyrics as an example to explore the traditional understanding of the "fair use" doctrine. Hamelman provides a good overview of current copyright laws and analyzes recent legal developments, not only in regard to the use of lyrics. He then discusses their impact on his 2004 book on rock 'n' roll music.

These articles were taken from InfoAlert - InfoAlert highlights recent articles and reports from leading U.S. journals and policy sources and provides informed commentary on international and domestic issues. Many articles are available "full text", some articles maybe password-protected. More articles are available through our InfoAlert service at <http://infoalert.usembassy.de> To register for a password, please contact us at infoalert.de@state.gov.

Web Site Suggestions

The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement

<http://www.csrrclearinghouse.org/>

Funded by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education, The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement is designed to assist schools and districts involved in school reform by providing information about research based strategies to help achieve this goal. The Research and Publications area of the site contains a database of information about school reform and improvement and research briefs on various topics. The Guides and Tools area provides some "best practice" information on topics such as tools for evaluating school progress and data-drive decision making.

Teen Content Creator and Consumers

http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Teens_Content_Creation.pdf

With more and more young people using the internet for a wide variety of purposes, there has been an increased effort to study what exactly they are doing online. This latest research report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project looks at how teenagers create content for the internet (such as weblogs) and how they choose to download content off the internet. Authored by Amanda Lenhart and Mary Madden and released in November 2005, this 29- page report reveals that over half of all the teens surveyed for this report create content for the internet and that thirty-eight percent of all teens surveyed read blogs. The report also contains a number of helpful charts and tables that will be of interest to those with an interest in the changing nature of internet usage patterns.

Impressum:

US-Generalkonsulat NRW * Amerika Haus Köln * Information Resource Center *

Apostelnkloster 13-15 * 50672 Köln *

Tel.: (0221) 20 90 147 * Fax: (0221) 20 90 157 * E-Mail: IRCCologne@state.gov

Internet: <http://www.usembassy.de/irc/>